



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—JUNE 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **Moniz Era Begins at Energy Department**—Ernest Moniz was sworn in as the next Secretary of the Department of Energy.
- **Proposed 'Fracking' Rules Anger Environmentalists, Annoy Industry**—The Obama administration unveiled a new proposal for its first major regulation of hydraulic fracturing on public lands. The proposal is softer on energy producers than an initial draft floated last year.
- **EPA to Publish Draft Low-sulfur Gas Rule**—A proposed rule intended to cut pollution from automobiles was published in the Federal Register, nearly two months after the EPA detailed the draft regulations.
- **Tech Leaders Quit Zuckerberg Group over Support for Keystone**—Two major tech leaders have resigned from Mark Zuckerberg's new political group, FWD.us, in protest of the organization's controversial decision to bankroll ads supporting Keystone XL and drilling in the Arctic National Refuge.
- **Coast Guard Investigates Shell Barge that Ran Aground in Alaska**—The Coast Guard kicked off hearings on how a Royal Dutch Shell PLC drill barge used for Arctic Ocean exploratory drilling ended up aground off a remote Alaska island.
- **White House Outlines Framework for Managing Arctic**—The White House released a national strategy for balancing energy- and minerals-development and conservation in the Arctic.
- **House Proposes 'Devastating' Cuts to Interior, EPA accounts in FY 14**—House appropriators proposed allocating \$24.3 billion to the Interior Department, Forest Service and EPA for next fiscal year, a level that would likely require significant cuts to a host of conservation programs, clean water grants, and climate change and habitat restoration work, environmentalists warned.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Vice-Chair Doris Matsui (CA): *H.R. 1807 The Residential Energy and Economic Savings (TREES) Act*

Establishes a DOE grant program to assist retail power providers with the establishment and operation of targeted tree-planting programs. The power provider partners with a local nonprofit tree organization and follows science-based guidelines to ensure the right trees are planted without disrupting current infrastructure.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rep. Heck Joins SEEC; Brings Membership to 50—This month, the Coalition added Puget Sound advocate Rep. [Denny Heck](#) (WA).

Don't Let Another Hurricane Season Blow by without Climate Action—With the start of hurricane season, Co-Chairs Reps. **Paul Tonko** (NY) and **Gerry Connolly** (VA) and Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA) penned an [op-ed](#) highlighting the costs of recent extreme weather events and urging action on climate change.

Climate Message to Focus on Disaster Costs—Focusing on the financial costs of natural calamities like Superstorm Sandy, droughts, and wildfires represents a new [effort](#) undertaken by SEEC. Lawmakers compared the amount of disaster spending last year, \$96 billion, to spending for things like education, transportation, and housing. Disasters won.

SEEC Meets with EERE—Members met with Dr. David Danielson, head of the Department of Energy's Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EERE). The discussion included how the Office works to promote clean energy; new reforms and initiatives; and its budget request.

Members Active on Bill to Expedite Approval of Keystone XL—SEEC Members took an active roll during consideration of a bill that would deem the Keystone XL pipeline approved. Amendments were offered by Co-Chairs Reps. **Gerry Connolly** (VA) and **Paul Tonko** (NY); Vice-Chairs Reps. **Jared Polis** (CO), **Rush Holt** (NJ), and **Chellie Pingree** (ME); Environment Task Force Chair Rep. **Judy Chu** (CA); and Members Reps. **Henry Waxman** (CA), **Steve Cohen** (TN), and **Donna Christensen** (VI). SEEC Member Rep. **Lois Capps** (CA) offered the motion to recommit the bill, which required TransCanada to pay into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, just like companies that transport oil.

SUPER Bill Introduced to Fight Climate Change—SEEC Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA) introduced the Super Pollutant Emissions Reduction (SUPER) Act to address short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, tropospheric ozone, hydrofluorocarbons, and black carbon, which cause nearly half of global warming.

SEEC Member Calls on Fed to Address Health Impacts of Climate Change—A new bill from Member Rep. **Lois Capps** (CA) calls on the federal government to craft a national strategy for dealing with the public health effects of climate change.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ♦ **\$136 billion:** Amount the federal government spent on recent extreme weather events.
- ♦ **Two-thirds:** Amount US weather extremes accounted for global losses from natural disasters in 2012.
- ♦ **13-20:** Likely number of named storms during the 2013 hurricane season according to NOAA. The long-term seasonal average is 12 named storms.
- ♦ **\$110:** Price for a share of electric car maker Tesla Motors stock. Earlier in the month, Tesla repaid their DOE loan—a full nine years early.
- ♦ **34 percent:** Additional amount by which the wind industry is projected to grow through 2016 according to EIA, due in large part to new tax incentives.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

Barack Obama @BarackObama: As hurricane season begins, [@SEEC](#) is highlighting the [#costsofclimate](#). How much does inaction cost you? Go here: <http://OFA.BO/Bpv7v1>

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